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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, AUGUST 2, 2000

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

WILLIAM F. EAREHART, et al.

v.

VALLEY RIDGE WATER COMPANY, INC.

CASE NO. PUE000340

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND HEARING

By letter dated March 24, 2000, pursuant to the Small Water or Sewer Public Utility Act, §§ 56-265.13:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, Valley Ridge Water Company, Inc. ("Valley Ridge" or the "Company"), notified its customers and the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") of its intent to increase its rates effective for service rendered on and after July 1, 2000.

The Company's monthly rates are proposed to be increased as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Unmetered Customers	\$22.00	\$33.00
Commercial or Metered Customers		
0 - 2,000 gallons	\$19.00	\$23.00
over 2,000 gallons	\$ 3.50 per 1000 gallons	\$ 4.20 per 1000 gallons

By June 1, 2000, Commission Staff had received objections to the proposed rate increase from 77 customers, or approximately forty-two percent (42%) of Valley Ridge's customers. Pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code of Virginia, on June 20, 2000, the Commission issued a Preliminary Order suspending the Company's proposed rates for sixty (60) days from the date of the Company's proposed effective date, and declaring the proposed rates interim and subject to refund, with interest, following this period of suspension. The Commission further directed Valley Ridge to file certain financial information on or before July 17, 2000. This financial information was filed July 12, 2000.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered the matter, is of the opinion that a hearing should be scheduled pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code of Virginia to receive evidence relevant to the Company's proposed tariff revisions.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) Pursuant to Rule 7:1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules"), 5 VAC 5-10-520, a Hearing Examiner is appointed to conduct all further proceedings in this matter.

(2) A public hearing before a Hearing Examiner shall be held on January 25, 2001, commencing at 10:00 a.m., in the Commission's Second Floor Courtroom located in the Tyler

Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23218, for the purpose of receiving evidence relevant to the Company's proposed tariff revisions.

(3) The Company's proposed increase in rates shall be permitted to become effective as of August 30, 2000, on an interim basis and subject to refund with interest.

(4) The Company forthwith shall make a copy of its proposed tariff and accompanying materials available for public inspection during regular business hours at its business office located in Clearview Estates, in the office of Bulldog Construction Inc., Dusty Road, Covington, Virginia.

(5) On or before September 30, 2000, the Company shall cause a copy of the following notice to be sent to each of its customers by first-class mail, postage prepaid (bill inserts are acceptable):

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF A HEARING
ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN WATER RATES
OF VALLEY RIDGE WATER COMPANY, INC.
CASE NO. PUE000340

TAKE NOTICE THAT by letter dated March 24, 2000, Valley Ridge Water Company, Inc. (the "Company"), §§ 56-265.13:1 et. seq. of the Code of Virginia, notified its customers, pursuant to the Small Water or Sewer Public Utility Act, of its intent to increase its charges for water service effective July 1, 2000. The Company's monthly rates would be revised as follows:

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
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Unmetered		
Customers	\$22.00	\$33.00
Commercial		
or Metered		
Customers		
• 0 - 2,000		
gallons	\$19.00	\$23.00
• over 2,000		
gallons	\$ 3.50 per	\$ 4.20 per
	1000 gallons	1000 gallons

Pursuant to § 56-265.13:6 of the Code of Virginia, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") suspended the Company's proposed increase in rates for sixty (60) days. The Company's proposed rates will be permitted to become effective as of August 30, 2000, on an interim basis and subject to refund, with interest. The Commission has scheduled a hearing before a Hearing Examiner to begin at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 2001, in the Commission's Second Floor Courtroom in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23218, to receive evidence relevant to the Company's proposed rates.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT while the total revenue that may be approved by the Commission is limited to the amount produced by the Company's proposed rates, the rates and charges approved for each class of service may be either higher than or lower than those proposed by the Company.

A copy of the Company's proposed tariff and accompanying materials is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Company's business office in Clearview Estates in the office of Bulldog Construction Inc., Dusty Road, Covington, Virginia. A copy also is available Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Commission's Document Control Center

located on the First Floor of the Tyler Building at the address listed above.

Any person desiring to comment in writing on the proposed rates may do so by directing such comments on or before November 20, 2000, to Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218, and refer to Case No. PUE000340. Any person desiring to make a statement at the public hearing, either for or against the application, need only appear in the Commission's courtroom at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the hearing and identify himself or herself as a public witness to the Commission's Bailiff.

Any person who expects to submit evidence, cross-examine witnesses, or otherwise participate in the proceedings as a Protestant pursuant to Rule 4:6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-10-180, should promptly obtain a copy of this Order for Notice and Hearing from the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above for full details concerning the procedural schedule and instructions on participation.

Individuals with disabilities who require an accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at 1-800-552-7945 (voice) or 1-804-371-9206 (TDD) at least seven (7) days before the scheduled hearing date.

All written communications to the Commission regarding this case should be directed to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above and should refer to Case No. PUE000340.

VALLEY RIDGE WATER COMPANY, INC.

(6) The Company forthwith shall serve a copy of this Order on the Chair of the Board of Supervisors of each county in which the Company offers service, and/or the Mayor or Manager of every city and town (or equivalent officials in the counties, cities, and towns having alternate forms of government) in which the Company offers service. Service shall be made by first-class mail or delivery to the customary place of business or to the residence of the person served.

(7) On or before October 9, 2000, the Company shall file with Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the prepared testimony and exhibits Valley Ridge intends to present at the public hearing and make a copy of the same available for public inspection as provided in paragraph (4) herein.

(8) On or before October 23, 2000, any person desiring to participate as a Protester, as defined in Rule 4:6, 5 VAC 5-10-180, shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of a Notice of Protest as provided in Rule 5:16 (a), 5 VAC 5-10-420 B, and shall serve a copy on the Company. A Notice of Protest shall be sent to Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, at the address set forth in paragraph (7) above. Service upon the Company shall be made on E.C.

Dressler, President, Valley Ridge Water Company, Inc., 118 Maple Lane, Covington, Virginia 24426.

(9) Within five (5) days of receipt of any Notice of Protest, the Company shall serve on each Protestant a copy of all material now or hereinafter filed with the Commission.

(10) Any person desiring to comment in writing on the Company's application may do so by directing such comments, on or before November 20, 2000, to Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, at the address set forth in paragraph (7) above. Such comments shall refer to Case No. PUE000340. Any person desiring to make a statement at the public hearing concerning the application need only appear in the Commission's Second Floor Courtroom at the address set forth in paragraph (2) above at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the hearing and identify himself or herself as a public witness to the Commission's Bailiff.

(11) Any person who expects to submit evidence, cross-examine witnesses, or otherwise participate in the proceeding as a Protestant, pursuant to Rule 4:6, shall file on or before November 20, 2000, an original and fifteen (15) copies of a Protest, referring to Case No. PUE000340, with Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, at the address set forth in paragraph (7) above. The Protestant shall simultaneously send a copy thereof to E.C. Dressler at the address set forth in paragraph (8) above.

(12) The Protest shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the Protestant in the proceeding; (ii) a full and clear statement of the facts which the Protestant is prepared to prove by competent evidence; and (iii) a statement of the specific relief sought and the legal basis therefor. Any corporate entity or governmental entity that wishes to submit evidence, cross-examine witnesses, or otherwise participate as a Protestant must be represented by legal counsel in accordance with the requirements of Rule 4:8, 5 VAC 5-10-200.

(13) On or before November 20, 2000, each Protestant shall file with Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, at the address set forth in paragraph (7) above, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the prepared testimony and exhibits the Protestant intends to present at the public hearing, and shall simultaneously mail a copy of the same to E.C. Dressler, President of Valley Ridge, at the address set forth in paragraph (8) above, and to other Protestants.

(14) The Company shall respond to written interrogatories within ten (10) business days after service. Protestants shall respond to written interrogatories of the Company, other Protestants, and Commission Staff within five (5) business days after service. Protestants shall provide the Company, other Protestants, and Commission Staff with any work papers or documents used in preparation of their filed testimony promptly

upon request. Except as modified above, discovery shall be in accordance with Part VI of the Rules, 5 VAC 5-10-450 to -510.

(15) The appropriate members of the Commission's Staff shall investigate the reasonableness of the Company's proposed tariff and shall present their findings and recommendations in prepared testimony and exhibits which shall be filed on or before December 18, 2000. A copy of such testimony and exhibits shall simultaneously be served upon E.C. Dressler, President of Valley Ridge, at the address set forth above, and upon each Protestant.

(16) On or before January 8, 2001, the Company shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of all testimony it expects to introduce in rebuttal to all direct prefiled testimony and exhibits. Additional rebuttal evidence may be presented without prefiling, provided it is in response to evidence which was not prefiled but elicited at the time of the hearing, and provided further, the need for additional rebuttal evidence is timely addressed by motion during the hearing and leave to present said evidence is granted by the Hearing Examiner. A copy of the prefiled rebuttal evidence shall be sent to the Staff and to all other parties to the proceeding.

(17) At the commencement of the hearing scheduled herein, the Company shall provide the Commission with proof of notice as required by paragraphs (5) and (6) of this Order.